

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 09645 261301Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----012951 261309Z /47

O R 261227Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4433
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T AMMAN 9645

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, JO/ XF
SUBJECT: COURT CHIEF REACTION TO BEGIN-SADAT PRESS CONFERENCE

1. COURT CHIEF SHARAF CONTACTED ME WITHIN MINUTES OF THE END OF THE LIVE TRANSMISSION OF BEGIN-SADAT PRESS CONFERENCE. WHILE PRINCIPAL CONTACT WAS ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, HE TOLD ME THAT IT WAS HIS REACTION THAT NOTHING REALLY HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN ISMAILIA ON WEST BANK AND GAZA AND THAT SADAT'S PRINCIPAL PROBLEM WITH THE ARABS NOW WOULD BE TO SEE HOW HE COULD KEEP OPEN THE IDEA THAT GENUINE NEGOTIATIONS ON A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT WOULD BE CONTINUING.

2. SHARAF REMARKED THAT PARTICULARLY AMONG THE REJECTIONISTS THE REACTION WOULD BE STRONG AND SOUR. HE ADDED THAT HE AND PRIME MINISTER WILL BE GOING TO DAMASCUS DECEMBER 27 TO TALK WITH ASAD. HE EXPECTED TO HEAR A GREAT DEAL AT THAT POINT ABOUT JORDAN'S POSITION WHICH SYRIANS CONSIDER AS BEING
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FULLY SUPPORTIVE OF SADAT. SHARAF SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT JORDAN HAS UP TILL NOW BEEN WELL-TREATED BY SYRIA IN PUBLIC, BUT HE WONDERED WHETHER SUCH WOULD CONTINUE. HE ALSO SAID THAT OF COURSE JORDAN WILL HAVE TO TRY TO CONVINCE ASAD THAT IT IS TAKING A MIDDLE COURSE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

3. COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY THIS REPRESENTS ONE VERY IMMEDIATE VIEW OF THE RESULTS. KING, GIVEN HIS TENDENCY TO PESSIMISM, IS LIKELY TO BE AS NEGATIVE AS SHARAF AT LEAST TO THE PUBLIC ASPECTS OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED THIS FAR. OBVIOUSLY ANY PRIVATE INFORMATION FROM THE EGYPTIANS WHICH IS MORE UP-BEAT WOULD BE A BALANCING FACTOR.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COURTS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977AMMAN09645
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770481-0578
Format: TEL
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771218/aaaaaoft.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e9680efd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 130582
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COURT CHIEF REACTION TO BEGIN-SADAT PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, JO, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e9680efd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009